

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-05 CCO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

USPS-01 /056 W

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R 232020Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6536

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1949

POUCHED INFO ALL CONGENS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: POSTAL CLERKS INTERRUPT SERVICE TO PROTEST
INCONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS

1. CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW) REPRESENTING
ROUGHLY 22,000 INSIDE WORKERS ARE RESORTING TO WORK-TO-
RULE AND TAKING SICK LEAVE IN VARIOUS LOCALITIES TO
PORTEST LACK OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING PAST TWO MONTHS
SINCE RENEGOTIATION OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WAS BEGUN.

2. CUPW PRESIDENT JOSEPH DAVIDSON HAS REAFFIRMED THAT UNION
EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS NOT AUTHORIZED STRIKE ACTION SINCE
IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL AS LONG AS CONCILIATION HAS NOT BEEN
INVOKED AND SUBSEQUENTLY FAILED. HOWEVER, UNION EXECUTIVE LAST
WEEK APPROVED "CERTAIN ACTION" SHORT OF WORK STOPPAGES TO
EXERT PRESSURE ON POST OFFICE AND TREASURY BOARD TO
BARGAIN ON ENTIRE PACKAGE OF UNION DEMANDS. THESE INCLUDE
71 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE (GOVERNMENT COUNTERED WITH OFFER
OF ABOUT HALF THAT AMOUNT), PLUS RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE
TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES, CLASSIFICATIONS, JOB TRAINING AND
PROMOTION, ALL OF WHICH EXCEPT WAGES ARE NOT BARGAINABLE
ISSUES UNDER PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS ACT. CUPW
CONSIDERING REQUEST FOR CONCILIATION IF NO PROGRESS IN
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NEGOTIATIONS IS FORTHCOMING.

3. IN MEANTIME, INTERRUPTION OF POSTAL SERVICE AS
OCCURRED MAY 23 IN OTTAWA, MAY 22 IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES AND
MAY 21 IN MONTREAL (MONTREAL 0882) WHEN INSIDE WORKERS TOOK
ONE DAY SICK LEAVE, OR DELAYS THROUGH WORK-TO-RULE
TACTICS CAN BE EXPECTED IN OTHER COMMUNITIES AS WELL.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, POSTAL SERVICE, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0076
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaaujz.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTAL CLERKS INTERRUPT SERVICE TO PROTEST INCONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006